The estimated time for completion of the 4th Coke Oven Battery project is 36 months.

Approval of the Planning Commission and the Public Investment Board has already been obtained and the proposal is now processed for obtaining final approval of the Government.

Service Road to Bogibeel Bridge

*193. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) status of the Bogibeel Bridge construction work showing sectoral outlay for the current year, progress made and target set including that for protection dam;

(b) whether part of railway track at Samarajan Area of Dhemaji District and the service road for Bogibeel Bridge approach was washed away by floods due to inadequate protection measures;

(c) if so, the remedial action taken thereon;

(d) whether Samarajan is breached every year due to unscientific and unplanned restoration work; and

(e) if so, amount of expenditure incurred and plan, if any, for permanent solution?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI NITISH KUMAR): (a) The final location survey has been completed. Land acquisition, supply of boulders has been taken up. The work of approach road to bridge site on both North and South banks are in advanced stage of completion. Earthwork, minor and major bridges for Railway embankment has been taken up wherever land has been made available. An outlay of Rs. 60 crore has been provided for the project during 2003-2004. The project is targeted for completion by April, 2008.

(b) Portions of Railway track at Kms. 356/5-7 and 357/1-2 between Gogamukh and Dhemaji have been washed away by flow

of heavy flood waters due to breach of marginal bund of river Jiadhal on 12.06.03. The service road for Bogibeel Bridge is, however, still under construction and there have been only minor rain cuts.

(c) Repair to Railway track shall be carried out after receding of flood water. Permanent protection works to prevent breaches of marginal bunds is to be done by State Government. In this regard, the Railways have already taken up matter with State Government authorities through various references and meetings in the past.

(d) There have been breaches in the section almost every year in the past few years due to breaches of marginal bunds which are maintained by State Government.

(e) An amount of Rs. 3.49 crore has been incurred on restoration of Railway line since 1998-99 to 2002-2003. Permanent solution for controlling flow of river Jiadhal and repair and maintenance of marginal bunds lies with State Government.

Universities/Deemed Universities

*194. SHRI SWARAJ KAUSHAL: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 4397 given in the Rajya Sabha on 2nd May, 2003 and state:

(a) the total number of Universities/Deemed Universities in the country; and

(b) what is the rating of each one of those Universities according to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council?

THE MINISTER OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI): (a) As per the information furnished by the University Grants Commission (UGC), there are 288 recognised Universities including 83 Deemed to be Universities in the country.

(b) NAAC has so far assessed and accredited 94 universities which includes 16 Deemed to be Universities. The list of Universities Accredited and their grading is annexed as Statement.